

**From:** Chip Witt  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/28/02 11:17am  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

To whom it may concern:

The proposed settlement against Microsoft has many flaws, but my problem with it is more philosophical in nature than most that I have heard. My understanding is that this judgment is supposed to be a punitive measure to correct monopolistic behavior in what should have been an open market place. With that in mind, should not the mere threat of such judgment modify Microsoft's behavior?

I have followed the proceedings against Microsoft fairly closely, as I am an IT Professional. During the trial through today, Microsoft continues to forge ahead mightily developing partnerships and products that forcibly squeeze competitors out of any market they decide to pursue. It is my humble opinion that the proposed settlement should take greater care to protect the consumer by evening up the playing field on which Microsoft competes. I see this proposed settlement as nothing more than a slight public slap on the wrist. Although it is a step towards the right direction in limiting some of Microsoft's anti-competitive practices, it does not prevent Microsoft from finding new ways to exploit the gains they have made in the market place as a monopolist. This is much akin to closing the barn door after the cow has already gotten out. More must be done.

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to comment.

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CW

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"We should never ever doubt what nobody is sure about".

-- Willy Wonka

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